

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 AID-05 /076 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:GWCHAPMAN:CSR

APPROVED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING

EUR/P:FSEIDNER

PA/PRS:KBROWN

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O R 232221Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS STATE 131372

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON DENKTASH STATEMENT OF MAY
22

REF: USUN 2069

1. FOLLOWING PREPARED STATEMENT WAS READ OUT BY DEPARTMENT
PRESS SPOKESMAN AT NOON BRIEFING MAY 23: BEGIN TEXT:

I WANT TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY
TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH IN NEW YORK YESTERDAY ON
THE SUBJECT OF RESUMING THE CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIA-
TIONS. WE FIND THIS TO BE A POSITIVE AND ENCOURAGING
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STATEMENT, WHICH CLARIFIES AND TO SOME EXTENT REFORMULATES
THE TURKISH CYPRIOT POSITION. SOME OF THE SALIENT POINTS
OF THE STATEMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST, DENKTASH REAFFIRMS TURKISH CYPRIOT READINESS TO
ENTER INTO "SUSTAINED, INTENSIVE GOOD-FAITH NEGOTIATIONS"
WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO RESOLVE THE OUTSTANDING CON-

STITUTIONAL AND TERRITORIAL ISSUES. HE NOTES THAT HE HAS MADE A COMMITMENT TO SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM TO ENGAGE IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS "WITH AN OPEN MIND AND IN A SPIRIT OF CONCILIATION AND FLEXIBILITY."

SECOND, WITH RESPECT TO THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE DENKTASH DECLARIES THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER "SIGNIFICANT GEOGRAPHICAL RE-ADJUSTMENTS" WHICH WOULD ENABLE "A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF GREEK CYPRIOTS TO RESETTLE."

THIRD, DENKTASH INDICATES THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS ARE READY TO MAKE IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS REGARDING THE CITY OF VAROSHA (NEW FAMAGUSTA). SOME 30,000 TO 35,000 OF THE FORMER GREEK CYPRIOT INHABITANTS OF THIS CITY WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND PROPERTIES EVEN BEFORE A SETTLEMENT IS REACHED--IN FACT WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS. DENKTASH HAS STRESSED THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS ARE FULLY PREPARED TO DISCUSS ALTERNATIVE FORMULAE FOR THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF VAROSHA. ASSUMING NEGOTIATIONS COMMENCE PROMPTLY, THIS MEANS THAT THOUSANDS OF GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD BEGIN RETURNING TO THEIR HOMES WITHIN MONTHS.

FOURTH, DENKTASH STATES THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS ARE EAGER TO DISCUSS WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOTS OTHER CONCRETE UNCLASSIFIED

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STEPS FOR HEALING THE WOUNDS OF THE PAST. HE HAS MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF REOPENING NICOSIA AIRPORT TO THE CIVILIAN TRAFFIC OF BOTH SIDES, AND OF ENGAGING IN JOINT ECONOMIC PROJECTS.

WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE IN THE COMING WEEKS TO BUILD UPON THESE IDEAS SO AS TO MOVE TOWARDS A PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR HAS INFORMED US THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY FULLY ENDORSES THIS STATEMENT BY MR. DENKTASH.

END TEXT.

2. EXCERPTS FROM EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE BETWEEN SPOKESMAN AND NEWSMEN THAT FOLLOWED WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS RELEASES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE131372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GWCHAPMAN:CSR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780217-1133
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780527/aaaaawrx.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b8794698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 2069
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2597632
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON DENKTASH STATEMENT OF MAY 22
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, TU
To: NICOSIA ANKARA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b8794698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014